

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 02483 071631Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-20 NSC-10 IO-14 DRC-01

/102 W

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R 071610Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8043

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2483

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, CY, XF

SUBJECT: CYPRUS DEPORTS CONVICTED ARAB TERRORISTS

REF: STATE 228870; NICOSIA 2417

1. PRESIDENT MAKARIOS DECEMBER 6 REMITTED SENTENCE ON SEVEN CONVICTED ARAB TERRORISTS, AND THEY WERE DEPORTED SAME EVENING TO CAIRO. DEFENSE HAD WITHDRAWN APPEAL IN ORDER TO CLEAR WAY AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAD RULED THAT REMISSION OF SEVEN-YEAR SENTENCE WAS LEGAL PROVIDED CONVICTS DEPORTED AND DID NOT RETURN DURING PERIOD OF SENTENCE.

2. MOST DEC 7 GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS CARRY FRONT-PAGE PICTURE AND ARTICLE ON DAPPERLY-DRESSED SEVEN, CHATTING HAPPILY WITH THEIR LAWYER AT AIRPORT BEFORE DEPARTURE. SOME PAPERS QUOTE ARABS AS EXPRESSING THANKS TO MAKARIOS FOR CLEMENCY AND FOR TREATMENT DURING DETENTION, AS WELL AS EXPRESSING HOPE THAT CYPRUS PROBLEM WILL BE SOLVED IN ACCORDANCE GREEK POSITION. IMMINENT RELEASE HAD OF COURSE BEEN RUMORED, AND ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN QUERY FROM CLERIDES' ORGAN "AGON" WHY ENOSIST DETAINEES DO NOT RECEIVE EQUALLY LENIENT TREATMENT.

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PAGE 02 NICOSI 02483 071631Z

3. EMBASSY HAD MADE DEMARCHE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AS INSTRUCTED

STATE REFTEL. EMBOFF ALSO DEPLORED PUBLICITY WHICH
MADE DEPARTURE APPEAR MORE A TRIUMPH THAN A DEPORTATION OF MEN
WHO HAD INTER ALIA ATTEMPTED MURDER CYPRIOT CITIZEN AND DIPLOMATS
STATIONED ON CYPRUS SOIL.

4. COMMENT: BEST THAT CAN BE SAID IS THAT EMBASSY IS FIRMLY ON
RECORD WITH USG POSITION, AND THAT GOCYPRUS AT LEAST WENT
THROUGH MOTIONS OF APPLYING JUSTICE. ASIDE FROM PRESIDENT'S
MOMENTARY ABERRATION DURING PRESS QUESTIONING IN JULY, GOCYPRUS
HAS LONG MADE CLEAR IT WOULD LIKE TO BE RID OF TERRORISTS AND
PROBLEM. CURRENT CYPRIOT SATISFACTION WITH ITS "TILT" TOWARDS
ARABS STRENGTHENS THAT DECISION.
MC CLOSKEY

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Message Attributes

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